

Amended Specification: Clean Version

Method for the operation of a flow measurement system

5 This application is the national phase filing of
International Application No. PCT/EP2005/000396 filed
on January 17, 2005 published as WO2005/069017 which
designated at least one country other than the United
States of America ("the PCT Application") and the PCT
10 Application claims the priority of German Application
No. 10 2004 002 546.0 filed on January 17, 2004 ("the
German Application") and the contents of the PCT
Application and the German Application are relied upon
and incorporated herein by reference in their entirety,
15 and the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 is
hereby claimed.

Field of the Invention

The method described herein relates to magnetic-
20 inductive flow measurement devices.

Description of the Prior Art

The physical effect which is used in magnetic-inductive
flow measurement devices to measure the flow rate is
the induction law. When an electrically conductive
25 measurement substance is passed through a magnetic
field B, then an electrical field E is produced in the
measurement substance at right angles to the flow
direction v and to the magnetic field correction.

30 Power must be supplied to the measurement system in
order to produce a magnetic field B. As is known, this
power is always constant.

However, this does not always result in optimum signal
35 generation.

Summary of the Invention

In the present invention an instantaneous signal-to-

noise ratio determination is carried out automatically in the signal processing of the flow measurement device during the measurement phase, and the power supplied to the measurement system is adapted as a function of the
5 result. A power supply which is optimally matched to the requirement is thus provided completely automatically.

A further advantageous refinement provides that the
10 power which is supplied is adapted in inverse proportion to the signal-to-noise ratio. This means that the higher the signal voltage in comparison to the noise, the less is the power that is required. However, the smaller the signal voltage with respect to the
15 noise voltage, the greater is the power which should be supplied to the measurement system.

A further factor is that the instantaneous value of the signal-to-noise ratio and/or of the power which is
20 supplied or a variable which is proportional to them or it is indicated. This allows the instantaneous measurement profile to be observed.

A further advantageous refinement provides for the
25 variable power supply to be achieved by adaptation of the magnetic field strength. This automatically becomes greater, the greater the ratio of the noise to the measurement signal.

A further advantageous refinement provides that if the
30 noise voltages are high, a visual and/or audible warning is generated. This warning makes the operator aware of the high noise voltages since excessive noise may indicate a fault.

35 A final advantageous refinement provides that if the flow rate is zero or virtually zero, the power supply is automatically switched off, or is temporarily

switched off.

Brief Description of the Drawings

5 The only drawing figure shows a graph that illustrates the energy that can be saved by using the present invention and the constant power that is supplied in prior art flow measurement systems.

Detailed Description

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The method of the invention provides an intelligent measurement system which, after evaluation of the ratio of the signal voltage to the noise voltage, automatically determines the required optimum magnitude of the signal voltage via the magnitude of the magnetic field, and thus the power required for the measurement system. This is an automatic determination and the required power is adjusted for the respective measurement task.

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The power requirement for the measurement parts can likewise be reduced to the minimum power consumption when the flow rate is zero.

25 This measurement system allows an optimized power supply to be achieved for all measurement tasks, independently of the respective excitation frequency. Considerable energy cost savings can thus be achieved, while at the same time lengthening the life of the measurement system. The life of the flow measurement device can be lengthened because the maximum amount of power is not always used, as in the normal case.

30 The illustrated curve (thick line with the label "invention") shows the energy which can be saved for different requirements for the measurement system, in terms of the noise voltage in different measurement applications. In contrast to this, the graph shows that

100% of the power is always supplied in the prior art.
In the case of the present invention, this is done only
when the signal-to-noise ratio is extremely poor.
Otherwise, the power supply always remains well below
5 that according to the prior art. This power adaptation
is carried out automatically in the described manner,
according to the invention.

At the same time, it is possible to use this
10 measurement system to carry out a diagnosis of the
measurement signal voltage and to emit a warning to the
operator of the measurement station when the noise
voltages are very high.

